

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. of HEALTH and SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION of PUBLIC HEALTH

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 110610
JUNEAU, AK 99811-0610
PHONE: (907) 465-3090 FAX: 586-1877

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Dear Fellow Alaskans:

I'm pleased to present the report *Health Status in Alaska: 2000 Edition*. This report provides a comprehensive update for many of the health indicators presented in the 1994 report, *Healthy Alaskans 2000*. It is based on the data report produced in 1998 for the Alaska Public Health Improvement Process, and includes two additional years of data plus a new chapter that describes trends in Alaska for the Healthy People 2000 Leading Health Indicators.

This report is meant to provide those working on improving health with a picture of Alaskans' health today so they better understand how to develop and prioritize disease and injury prevention and health promotion efforts. This extensive review provides information that can also assist with the evaluation of progress in meeting the health status goals for the year 2000, and help us focus our efforts on improving the health of Alaskans for the 21st Century.

This effort to compile updated information on the health of Alaskans is the first step in creating a new Alaska Public Health Information System. Creation of the new information system was recommended by the Alaska Public Health Improvement Process Steering Committee in order to improve access to and timeliness of health status and health systems information. The intent is to provide Alaskans with an updated health status report each year, and to develop a web-based community health profile for each borough and census area in the state.

Thank you for your interest and commitment to improving the public's health in Alaska.

Sincerely,



Peter M. Nakamura, MD, MPH
Director

